

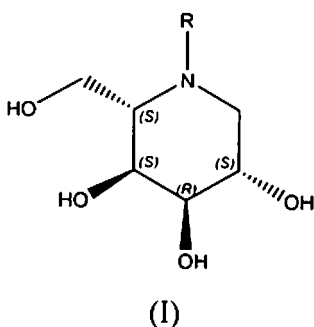
AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A compound of formula (I) in free[.] or pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ~~C₁₋₄ alkyl ester prodrug~~ form:



wherein

R is -C₁₋₃ alkylAr¹ where Ar¹ is phenyl;

wherein phenyl is substituted by one or more substituents selected from CN, CON(R¹)₂, SO_nR², SO₂N(R¹)₂, N(R⁵)₂, N(R¹)COR², N(R¹)SO_nR², C₀₋₆ alkylAr², C₂₋₆ alkenylAr² and C₃₋₆ alkynylAr²

wherein one or more of the —CH₂— groups of the alkyl chain may be replaced with a heteroatom selected from O, S and NR³, provided that when the heteroatom is O, at least two —CH₂— groups separate it from any additional O atom in the alkyl chain; or two adjacent substituents on the Ar¹ phenyl may together form a fused 5- or 6-membered saturated or unsaturated ring wherein the ring optionally contains 1 or 2 heteroatoms selected from O, S and NR⁴ and is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from, an oxo group, C₁₋₆ alkyl and C₀₋₃ alkylAr⁴;

and the Ar¹ phenyl is optionally substituted by one or more additional substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CF₃, OCF₃, OR³ and C₁₋₆ alkyl;

R^1 is H, C_{1-6} alkyl optionally substituted by OH, Ar^3 , or C_{1-6} alkyl Ar^3 , or the group $N(R^1)_2$ may form a 5- to 10-membered heterocyclic group optionally containing one or more additional heteroatoms selected from O, S and NR^3 and is optionally substituted by an oxo group;

R^2 is C_{1-6} alkyl optionally substituted by OH, Ar^3 , or C_{1-6} alkyl Ar^3 ;

R^3 is H, or C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^4 is H, C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{0-3} alkyl Ar^4 ;

R^5 is H, C_{1-6} alkyl optionally substituted by OH, Ar^3 , or C_{1-6} alkyl Ar^3 , or the group $N(R^5)_2$ may form a 5- to 10-membered heterocyclic group optionally containing one or more additional heteroatoms selected from O, S and NR^3 and is optionally substituted by an oxo group;

Ar^2 and Ar^3 are independently phenyl or a 5- to 10-membered heteroaryl group containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from O, S and NR^3 , which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CN, CF_3 , OCF_3 , OR^3 and C_{1-6} alkyl;

Ar^4 is phenyl or pyridyl either of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CN, CF_3 , OCF_3 , OR^3 and C_{1-6} alkyl;

and $n=0, 1$ or 2 .

2. (Previously presented) The compound as defined in claim 1 wherein R is C_1 alkyl Ar^1 .

3. (Previously presented) The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein Ar^1 is phenyl, wherein phenyl is substituted as defined in claim 1.

4. (Previously presented) The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein Ar^1 is phenyl, wherein phenyl is substituted by one or more substituents selected from CN, $CON(R^1)_2$, $N(R^5)_2$, and C_{0-6} alkyl Ar^2 wherein one or more of the $-CH_2-$ groups of the alkyl chain may be replaced with a heteroatom selected from O, S and NR^3 , provided that when the heteroatom is O, at least two $-CH_2-$ groups separate it from any additional O atom in the alkyl chain, or two adjacent substituents on the Ar^1 phenyl may together form a fused 5- or 6-membered saturated or unsaturated ring wherein the ring optionally contains 1 or 2 heteroatoms selected from O and NR^4 and is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from, an oxo group, C_{1-6} alkyl and

C₀₋₃ alkylAr⁴, and the Ar¹ phenyl is optionally substituted by one or more additional substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CF₃, OCF₃, OR³ and C₁₋₆ alkyl.

5. (Previously presented) The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein Ar¹ is phenyl, wherein phenyl is substituted by one or more substituents selected from CN, CON(R¹)₂, N(R⁵)₂, and C₀₋₆ alkylAr² wherein one or more of the —CH₂— groups of the alkyl chain may be replaced with O, provided that at least two —CH₂— groups separate it from any additional O atom introduced into the alkyl chain and the Ar¹ phenyl is optionally substituted by one or more additional substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CF₃, OCF₃, OR³ and C₁₋₆ alkyl.

6. (Previously presented) The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein Ar² is phenyl which is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CN, CF₃, OCF₃, OR³ and C₁₋₆ alkyl.

7. (Previously presented) The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein R¹ is H or C₁₋₆ alkylAr³.

8. (Previously presented) The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein R⁴ is H or C₁₋₆ alkyl.

9. (Previously presented) The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein Ar³ is phenyl which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CN, CF₃, OCF₃, OR³ and C₁₋₆ alkyl.

10. (Previously presented) The compound as defined in claim 1 wherein R⁵ is C₁₋₆ alkyl.

11. (Currently amended) The compound selected from
Benzamide, N-[(4-fluorophenyl)methyl]-4-[[2S,3S,4R,5S)-3,4,5-trihydroxy-2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-piperidiny]methyl]-;
3,4,5-Piperidinetriol, 2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-[[4-(phenylmethoxy)phenyl]methyl]-,(2S,3S,4R,5S);
Benzamide, N-[1-(S)-(phenyl)ethyl]-4-[[2S,3S,4R,5S)-3,4,5-trihydroxy-2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-piperidiny]methyl]-;

3,4,5-Piperidinetriol, 1-[(3-cyano-4-(dipropylamino)phenyl)methyl]-2-(hydroxymethyl)-, (2S,3S,4R,5S);

Benzamide, N-[1-(S)-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-[[2S,3S,4R,5S)-3,4,5-trihydroxy-2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-piperidinyl]methyl]-;

Benzamide, N-[1-(R)-(phenyl)ethyl]-4-[[2S,3S,4R,5S)-3,4,5-trihydroxy-2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-piperidinyl]methyl]-;

Benzamide, N-[1-(R)-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-[[2S,3S,4R,5S)-3,4,5-trihydroxy-2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-piperidinyl]methyl]-;

3,4,5-Piperidinetriol, 2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-[(2-phenyl-2H-1,4-benzoxazin-3(4H)-one-6-yl)methyl]-, (2S,3S,4R,5S);

3,4,5-Piperidinetriol, 2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-[[4-[(4-chlorophenyl)methoxy]phenyl]methyl]-, (2S,3S,4R,5S);

3,4,5-Piperidinetriol, 2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-[[4-[(4-fluorophenyl)methoxy]phenyl]methyl]-, (2S,3S,4R,5S),

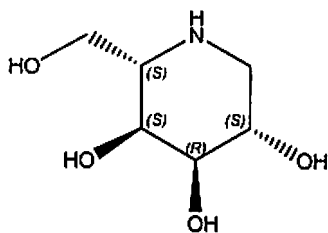
in free[.] or pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ~~C₁₋₄ alkyl ester prodrug~~ form.

12. (canceled)

13. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients and/or diluents.

14. (Previously presented) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, the process comprising:

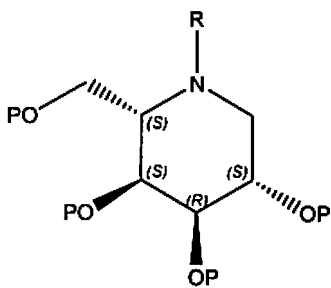
a) reductive amination of an aldehyde of formula R^5CHO wherein R^5 is $C_{0-2} alkylAr^1$ where Ar^1 is as defined in claim 1, with a compound of formula (II):



(II)

or

b) deprotection of a compound of formula (III):



(III)

wherein R is as defined in claim 1 and P, which may be the same or different, are hydroxy protecting groups.

15-30 (Cancelled).